



Remarks

Amendment No. 1 corrects a typographical error in the First Preliminary Amendment; Amendment No. 2 correctly sets forth the "clean" paragraph of paragraph 12 of the first Preliminary Amendment; and Amendment 3 corrects a typographical error.

The filing fee for the claims over twenty (20), as filed in applicants' First Preliminary Amendment of January 9, 2002, should be charged to Deposit Account No. 12-0913

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In the Specification:

1. Amend the paragraph at Page 6, lines 5 - 8 to read:

Passing through apertures 56 [in] are arm 34 cylinder 50 and pushrod assembly 58 ~~provides~~ ^{TC 1700} provides clearance so that cylinder 50 and pushrod assembly 58 can pivot slightly at mount 54 as the end of lever 22 circumscribes an arc as it moves. The shear die set 18 is pushed by plate assemblies 60, 62 on which lever 22 bears through fasteners 46, bearings or bushings 64 and pins 66.

2. Amend the paragraph at page 8, line 20 to page 9, line 4 to read:

A major advantage of the welderhead 10 of the invention is the ability to combine in a single unit, the ability for the three functions of rail pulling, flash butt welding [forging] ,shearing and maintaining the "after forged" [displacement without any change in platen] position. The horizontal plane of force of the rail pull will have a [mechanized] mechanical adjustment to approximately match the neutral axis of all rail sizes specified. The welderhead 10 has a rail pulling (together) ability of about 200 tons. The pulling ability will be sufficient for moving and stretching substantially all [lengths of] rail sections currently used in the field. It will be typically able to overcome tensile and frictional resistance of steel rail lengths of up to about one quarter to one third of a statute mile in length, as well as forging the rail ends together and maintaining that position after forging.

3. Amend the paragraph at page 13, line 1 to line 7 to read:

Fourth, the welderhead itself will pull and stretch the rail until rail ends butt welderhead automatic stop. As part of this step, the machine may re-coil by relieving

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pressure to upset cylinders and then, determine gap, pull force and preferably provides information to enable a go/ no-go decision to the Weld Monitor. A no-go signal disables the welding function and gives an explanation of the reason to a Weld Monitor. The mechanical functions could be performed, albeit less [effici4ently] efficiently, without the automatic Weld Monitor function. Fifth, if necessary, the operator can release for vertical adjustment, then re-clamp and repeat step four several times.